

12/8/04

7:04 PM

Attending: Chairman Bryson, Roy Coulombe, Gary Stott, Chris Tardie, Gerry Dumas.

Guest; Admini ator Sue Sheppard.

Commissioner ryson welcomed Ms. Sheppard to the meeting. Chairman Bryso started by informing Sue that we had just come from a meeting ith Scott Dunlap the Architect of the new middle school, and School Dept. Facilities Manager Angelo Menenucci ..

Mr. Bryson expressed the general feeling of the Commission that the project was very impressive and that we were exited about the new athletic fields that will be coming on line. Commissioner Coulombe remarked that the 2 and a half, multi purpose fields have been som~thing that all the local youth sports organizations have been seeking for a while and will be heavily used.

Commissiorter BrycSO n asked about the "as built" plans for Manville and Lonsdale Parks. Ms. Sheppard told the COInm. that they had only surveyed Manville Park. Mr. Bryson mentioned that John MacQueen and Paul Prachniak had said at the August parks meeting that both parks were being surveyed. Manville commissioner Dumas asked when we would see the new plans for Manville. Sue said that there weren't any plans yet only the "as built" which showed the

boundaries, elevations and any hazards that might exist. They were now seeking funding of approximately \$20,000.00 for a design plan. Mr. Dumas spoke about the \$22,000.00 left over from the Manville Park Association. Mr. Dumas reminded everyone that the money is set aside for a monument about the history of the park. It was suggested that the money could possibly be used for the design plan as long as the monument was built in the final project.

Funding for the overall refurbishing of Manville Park was discussed and Sue was asked if there was a deal being negotiated with the track to invest money at Manville. Sue explained that the

settlement was not finalized. The track still had not finalized their

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end of the deal. She told the commissioners that the owners at the track were no longer interested in building new fields there and a compromise was being sought. Sue said that the administration was going to apply for C.D.B.G. grants for the project in Manville.

Chairman Bryson then turned the discussion to Lonsdale Park and asked Sue about Mr. Prachniak's and Mr. McQueen's past discussion about lighting the ball field and building a new snack bar there. Ms. Sheppard said they were still discussing the lighting project. Lonsdale commissioner Coulombe expressed great concern about safety of holding nighttime events there without correcting the

parking problems that currently exist there. The plan to buy the Lonardo property was discussed but Ms. Sheppard said there wasn't any progress to report at this time..

Mr. Bryson now discussed the lights at Sullivan Park. Ms. Sheppard explained that every time people go to the financial town meeting and appropriate funds for specific projects there is never enough money approved. The town approved \$65,000.00 and there was only one bidder at \$95,000.00. Mr. Bryson expressed dismay that there was 4 or 5 contractors at the pre job walk thru. Bryson produced a letter that he had sent to Sue, Mr. MacQueen, Mr. Prachniak, and town planner Al Rinaldi back on July 20th. This letter referred to the R.F .P . ' s that went out for the light design. The letter advised everyone that the town should negotiate down with the two low bidders that were close to the \$5,000.00 that commissioner William Peppes of Lime Rock had estimated would be enough. We felt that having an expert in the field put out the bid and oversee the whole job would be the best way to go. Chairnlan Bryson complained that he never received a response to his letter. He then went on to say that had a professional handled the bid process as we suggested we would have had more than one bidder and a lower price. Ms. Sheppard said she would look into having the project rebid.

While on the subject of lights it was asked about the fees that were being charged at Chet Nichols Field. Sue remarked that they had not

arrived at a price yet but that there appeared to have been an increase in the amount of electricity used there last year. Sue said there was a problem of who would be responsible for turning the lights on and off. She said that they were intending to have somebody from the temporary summer crew take care of it.

Mr. Bryson then asked why we never get a detailed report from Mr. Prachniak about the programs and developments in the parks and rec. dept. This year the fees went up on the youth leagues and nobody told us. Mr. Stott said that there isn't any formal communication between the Park & Rec. Dept./ Administration and the Parks & Rec. Commission. Ms. Sheppard was asked why the Parks Director did not attend the monthly meetings. Sue said she did not know why Mr. Prachniak doesn't come to the Parks & Rec. meetings. The Administrator said maybe he feels threatened. Ms. Sheppard was asked if she felt threatened and she said no.

She reminded the Commissioners that they were only advisory and Mr. Tardie asked how we could advise anyone if they don't meet with us. Nobody hears our suggestions or answer our questions. Sue expressed dismay that the Lincoln Youth Athletic Council had stopped meeting.

Sue told the Commission about spending \$5,000.00 on fire upgrades at the Albion youth center. New doors were included in this project.

She said that they were in the process of spending \$15,000.00-\$18,000.00. to move the backstop at Chet Nichols field. This would improve site lines and seating.

Another project being undertaken is for new lighting for the basketball court at Sullivan Park. At a value of \$8,000.00.

Sue also told us that a new A.D.A. accessible piece of playground equipment was purchased for Sullivan Park. \$1,000.00

Sue talked about the intent to spend \$17,000.00 on new playground equipment at Albion Park.

She also hopes to bring water to Arnold Park to keep the grass green and add restroom facilities. Mr. Stott remarked about how popular the playground has been.

There was discussion about the purchase of the Beauragard property and its intended use. Mr. Coulombe talked about the lack of a second full outfield, 90- foot dimensional baseball field in the town. He said Mr. Dunlap had told the committee that the Beauragard property was a very good piece of property for a new field both geologically and dimensionally. Ms. Sheppard told the Commission that there was not going to be any athletic fields there. She said the administration was looking at new municipal

buildings for that location. Mr. Coulombe asked if there was other sites in town to put buildings on and questioned if this might be the last available piece of publicly owned property conducive to building athletic fields. He asked about the Nafta Mill site. Sue said that they wanted 2 million dollars for that property. She said that presently there weren't any other sites. He mentioned that the town only had one 90 foot diamond with full dimension outfield distances. And that the middle school field across the street at

Lime Acers could not be safely used, balls are hit into the road and volley ball area. He mentioned that if one of the fields needed work we would be down to only one field. She spoke about how necessary the needs of other departments have become and building a new ball field was not affordable. Sue compared our committee to others in town and said all we want to do is spend money. Chairman Bryson spoke about the Parks Improvement Plan and that we have been asked by the Budget Board why we don't do a park per year as in the plan. We explained to Sue that we had resisted Town Council members and a state representative in town to do a Park every year. Mr. Coulombe explained that we

were very budget conscious and only wanted to seek projects that were needed and within the towns budget constraints. That we had held up asking for any projects until Sullivan field was done. And any discussion of projects at Lonsdale and Lime Acers were held off until we saw what the new school would provide for facilities. Then we

could see what was still needed.

Administrator Sheppard asked if there was anything more we needed from her before we adjourn. She said she would look into why we were not getting reports from the Parks Director. She would also check on the "as built" of Manville and keep us abreast of any developments there.

Commissioner Stott remarked said that we did not have a capital expenditures project for this year. Ms. Sheppard asked the commission what we wanted to do? Mr. Bryson said that last years project was the cleanup, boatramp and improvements at Barney's Pond and it was not approved. He asked Sue what she had for suggestions and she said she really did not have any. Mr. Coulombe asked about possibly rehabilitating the old camp ground up behind the pond at Lonsdale for Girls and Boy Scout troops. He suggested that maybe we could self perform some of the cleanup and restore the old fireplaces. Ms. Sheppard was vehement about not undertaking this endeavor without going D.E.M. about reestablishing vehicle access. A suggestion was made that maybe the project could start without the access.

A motion was made at 8:35 PM to adjourn.

It was seconded and voted on.